

JAN 28 2008

Application Serial No. 10/796,488

Attorney Docket No. 10040374-1

Reply to Final Office Action dated November 26, 2007

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing Of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus for separating a slide from a substrate backing, comprising:
  - (a) a slide ~~440~~ for holding an array;
  - (b) a substrate backing ~~425~~ being positioned opposite the slide;
  - (c) a gasket ~~427~~ interposed between the slide and the substrate backing and having a perimeter 425; and
  - (d) a spacer ~~429~~ interposed between the slide ~~440~~ and the substrate backing ~~425~~ adjacent to the gasket, the spacer positioned outside the perimeter and providing a pivot between the substrate backing and the slide, 427wherein when a sufficient force ~~+50, +50~~ is applied to the substrate backing ~~425~~ and the slide ~~440~~, a portion of the slide ~~440~~ separates from the substrate backing ~~425~~ permitting disassembly of the slide ~~440~~ from the substrate backing ~~425~~.
2. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket ~~427~~ comprises a deformable material.
3. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer ~~429~~ comprises a substantially non-deformable material.
4. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket ~~427~~ is attached to the slide ~~440~~.
5. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket ~~427~~ is attached to the substrate backing ~~425~~.

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6. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 127 comprises a portion of the substrate backing 125.

7. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket 127 is attached to both the slide 140 and the substrate backing 125.

8. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 129 is attached to the slide 140.

9. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 129 is attached to the substrate backing 125.

10. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 129 is attached to both the slide 140 and the substrate backing 125.

11. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 129 comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, plastics, acrylics, metals and non-deformable or less deformable polymers.

12. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the spacer 129 is between 25 to 500 microns in height.

13. (Previously Presented) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the array hybridization apparatus defines an array hybridization chamber having a height of between 25 to 1000 microns.

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14. (Currently Amended) A method of disassembling an array hybridization apparatus having a slide contacting a substrate backing, the substrate backing having a gasket and spacer, the gasket having a perimeter and the spacer positioned outside the perimeter, the method comprising: a-

applying a force +50, -150<sup>2</sup> to the edge of a slide +10 on one side of the spacer to separate at least a portion of the slide +10 and the gasket from a the substrate backing +25 on an opposite side of the spacer, wherein the force causes a pivot between the spacer and the slide.

15. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a living hinge +42 that aids in the separation of the backing +25 from the slide +10.

16. (Currently Amended) An array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a lever +64 rotatably mounted on a hinge.

17. (Currently Amended) The array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein spacer +29 is spaced from gasket +27 by about 1 cm to 5 cm.

18. (Currently Amended) The array hybridization apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising tabs +54, -154<sup>2</sup> extending away from substrate backing +25, slide +10, or both.